



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: 300 M STREET, N.E. PATENT AND TRADEMARK
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO	CONFIRMATION NO
09 209,541	12 11 1998	ANNA GUTOWSKA	E-1537-CIP	6863

7590 03 26 2002

Douglas e. McKinley, Jr.
P.O. Box 202
Richland, WA 99352

EXAMINER

MULLIS, JEFFREY C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1711

DATE MAILED: 03 26 2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action

Application No.

09/209,541

Applicant(s)

GUTOWSKA, ANNA

Examiner

Jeffrey C. Mullis

Art Unit

1711

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 20 February 2002 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- (a) ☒ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
- (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
- (c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
- (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: see attachment.

3. ☒ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): see attachment.
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. ☒ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☒ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: see attachment.
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. ☒ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☐ will not be entered or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: none.

Claim(s) objected to: none.

Claim(s) rejected: 1-12 31-36.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

8. ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
10. ☐ Other: _____.

Jeffrey C. Mullis
J Mullis
Art Unit: 1711

Art Unit 1711

ATTACHMENT TO ADVISORY ACTION

Applicants' amendment has not been entered since applicants' newly added limitation would require further consideration and/or search since this limitation was not previously present in the claims.

With regard to Sassi et al., applicants argue that Sassi needs a lot of acrylamide. However it is not the position of the Examiner that any of Sassi's examples containing amounts of acrylamide greater than the highest amount of acrylamide embraced by "about 10 mole percent" meets the limitations of applicants' claims. Sassi et al. disclose more than one example in which the amount of acrylamide, embraced by applicants' hydrophilic comonomer is less than about 10 mole percent as required by the claims.

With regard to Hoffman, applicants argue that the material of Hoffman was a protein/polymer conjugate. However applicants' material does not exclude conjugation to a protein. Applicants argue that under the circumstances utilized by Hoffman no gel formation could have occurred. However applicants' claims merely recite a characteristic and it is immaterial whether or not the specific conditions of Hoffman resulted in a gel formation under the conditions of Hoffman.

Serial No. 09/209,541

-3-

Art Unit 1711

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 first paragraph as well as the rejection relying upon Bae '055 are hereby expressly withdrawn.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Jeffrey Mullis at telephone number (703) 308-2820.

J. Mullis:cdc

March 22, 2002

Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1711

A large, stylized handwritten signature, likely of the Primary Examiner, is written over the printed name and title.